



Newsletter April 2023

St. Michael's Middle School

"Each person, uniquely made in God's image, merits the best we can give"



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable Easter break as we return for what is always a short but very busy half-term.

I am constantly impressed by how much pupils at St. Michael's throw themselves into school life. We finished the Spring term with a celebration assembly. A number of pupils won an end of term award for progress or overall attainment across the curriculum. We were hugely impressed by our school orchestra, who played a number of pieces from the movies. We had a stunning drum solo from a Year 8 pupil and a solo performance from our talent contest winner. We finished the assembly with a highlights video of all the things that had happened in school since Christmas. It certainly was a remarkable term.

A recent survey showed that 96% of our pupils take part in at least one club at school, whilst 99% do a club in or out of school. That is a hugely impressive number and I hope that everyone can find a club to attend this term with a number of new clubs starting up.

I want to finish by wishing all of the Year 6 pupils the very best for their upcoming SATS tests in a few weeks. I have been to many of their lessons and seen first hand how hard they have been working in preparation.

Good luck!

Have a good half term.

Mr Ayling



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Year 8 Boys Football

The Year 8 football team have had a couple of cup fixtures during the Spring term.

Firstly, we were 6 - 1 winners at home to West Moors Middle School, with a standout performance on the wing from Leo W and a couple of goals each from strikers Joel A and Josh H. The goal of the match however was scored by Harry VE, with a shot coolly placed into the top left corner from around 25 yards.

In the next round, we were drawn against St. Edward's and they proved to be much harder to break down. A very close game throughout and a couple of defensive errors gifted the opposition a 2 - 0 victory. All of the boys were a credit to St. Michael's and should be proud of their efforts.



A mixed team from Years 5 & 6 took part in the East Dorset Indoor Athletics Competition. Huge determination and effort was shown resulting in us coming 4th overall.

Good luck to our Year 7 girls football team in their upcoming county final and also the Year 6 girls football team in their county cup semi-final.

Congratulations and good luck to the Year 7 football team for qualifying for both the PEDSSA and County Cup semi-finals.

Ruby H, our slalom skier from the last issue has qualified for the national finals.

Year 8 Girls have also qualified for the county finals in both football and indoor cricket.



Year 5 and 6 girls were chosen from our gym club to represent our school in the EAST DORSET SCHOOLS' TEAMS TUMBLING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023. They performed fantastically and came away in second place against 10 other teams.

Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members to the teaching team at St. Michael's.

Mr Manley has joined us as the new head of PE, taking over from Mr Wellman. He will also take over as the co-tutor of class 8A alongside Mr Arthur until the end of the year.

Mrs Hughes has joined the school to cover the maternity leave for Madame Minne, who will be starting her leave shortly.

We are delighted to welcome back **Mrs Thompson-Brown** following her time off for treatment. She will be working mainly non-class based for the remainder of the year.



WE NEED YOU!



Can you help us with being a reader for the Year 6 SATS tests?
We need helpers for:

- Tues. 9th May—SPAG Paper—Arrive 8.45am, Leave 10.30am
- Thurs. 11th May—Maths Paper—Arrive 11am, Leave 12.45am
- Fri. 12th May—Maths Paper—Arrive 8.45am, Leave 10.15am

Coffee and pastries are offered to all volunteers. The tests start 30 minutes after the arrival times above. This gives you a chance to find out what you need to do and meet with other parental volunteers. You are able to volunteer regardless of whether your child is in Year 6.

If you think you might be able to volunteer, please get into contact with the Mrs Wellman in the school office on 01202 883433 or email the school office at office@stmichaelsmiddle.org.



We are very much looking forward to this significant historical and national event taking place in a few weeks time. This will be the first coronation of a new monarch in most people's living memory and we feel that it is important to both cover and celebrate this event in school.

On **Friday 5th May 2023**, we will be doing a number of things in school to mark the coronation, teach the children about the event and also celebrate the occasion. Details of the events we have planned are listed below:

Special Themed Lessons

Pupils will be getting two special PSHE lessons on this day. One will be looking at the history of the monarchy and the other looking at the events that will take place in the coronation service itself. These will take place during lesson 5 and after lunch (normal lessons will be suspended for this event).

Celebration Class Picnic

Each tutor group will be organising a picnic event on the school field, taking place for the last 30 mins of the day. We ask that each pupil brings something to share at the picnic, such as cake, crisps or snacks. They will be set out on the field and pupils can enjoy our own version of a street party. Please can we remind you that we are a nut free school and any food explicitly containing nuts cannot be used.

Coronation Cake Competition

Pupils are invited to decorate a cake in any way they want to celebrate the coronation event. The competition will judge the decoration of the cake (not the cake itself) and we ask that all work is done by pupils and we have a photo of them decorating their cake. Prizes will be awarded for the best overall designs. If pupils (and parents) are happy for it be eaten in school, their class can eat the cake as part of the celebration class picnic.

Wear Red, White and Blue

Pupils are invited to wear clothes that are red, white and blue to match the colours of our national flag on the Friday as a bonus non-uniform day.

Design and Wear a Crown

Pupils can design a crown and wear it to school on Friday. There will be prizes for the best designs and well constructed crowns. The crowns can be a representation of those that will be used for the coronation service itself or a more contemporary interpretation reflecting life in modern Britain.

ARTS AWARD

In March, we welcomed the news that all 42 Arts Award participants have been successful in gaining their qualification from Trinity College, London.

The Arts Award develops artistic abilities, art form knowledge, creative problem solving, research and communication skills. Participants have the opportunity to experience and engage with the arts as both creators and audience members.

Our pupils have enjoyed visits to Roche Court Sculpture Park, the Arts University Bournemouth and interactive illustration workshops as part of their experiences this year; producing work ranging from fashion design and abstract painting to digital drawing and 3D sculpture.

For the Bronze Award, our Year 7 pupils have put in more than 60 hours of work to produce a portfolio which shows the range of their learning, research and achievement.

The Year 8 pupils have all successfully achieved a Silver Award, investing around 95 hours over the course of the last 11 months; showcasing evidence of their understanding of arts practice and arts leadership skills.

The dedication and commitment of all pupils involved this year has been extraordinary - congratulations to all of you! Particular thanks to Mrs Willis and Mr Rosier for all their time and support in making the Award scheme happen.



If your child walks home and uses the school crossing patrols either by the church or by the war memorial, please can you speak to them to make sure that they wait until the traffic has stopped before crossing. We have had a couple of near misses by pupils running out into the road before the crossing person is ready for them to cross.

Road Safety



The road system around the school is not designed for the volume of traffic using this on a daily basis. This is not something we can solve easily as it is out of the schools control. There have been recent incidents that have raised concerns over the way some parents are driving on the busy Colehill Lane outside of school. To help improve the situation, we ask that parents follow the following guidelines to reduce the risk of an accident.



Please keep to a voluntary speed limit of 20 miles per hour whilst travelling down this road at school drop-off and pick-up times. Dropping to 20 mph means that there is a 40% reduction in the likelihood of an accident and, should a collision with a pedestrian occur, a 25% lower chance of serious injury (statistics from the Highway Agency).

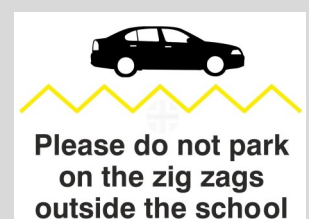
If everyone were to treat the road as a one-way system during the busy drop-off and pick-up, this would really help with the flow of traffic. Cars can follow the buses, entering from the war memorial end and exiting by the church. This will stop the car to car confrontations that block the traffic on the narrow road.



Our car park gates are currently out of operation and stuck open. It remains that no cars should be coming into the car park to drop off pupils other than by pre-arrangement. Please also never use the entrance gates to exit as drivers and children are not expecting cars to come from this direction. The car park is covered by CCTV and the details of any car driving in a manner that is dangerous to others will have their details passed on to the Police.



Please do not park on the Zig-Zag lines at the front of school as this is against the law, including for dropping off or picking up. Also, please do not use the space in front of the gates to do a U-turn, we have had a few very near misses.



Collective Worship

During the last week of last term, we had some extended collective worship sessions so we could explore Holy Week and the Easter story in more depth. This included worship that was led by Vicar Suzanne, Mr Ayling and Mr Taylor and even included Mr Ayling washing a pupil's feet!

We hope that your children have shared some of the 40 Acts of Kindness at home... did anyone even donate an Easter egg to a friend or family member?! We feel very proud of all the kindness that was shared in school.

It is always so impressive when pupils are able to lead collective worship and we thoroughly enjoyed the Comic Relief fundraising event on our 'Dress up for Joy' day in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee. Overall, we raised £601.50 which was split equally between the two causes.

This half term in collective worship we will be focusing on the theme 'What can you do to change the world?'. We will be exploring areas that pupils have identified as the 'injustices' they see in the world and what we can do to make the world a fairer place to live.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.

Proverbs 31:8

House Point Totals

Here are the latest house point totals. Pupils earn 'epraise' points and these are added together to make their house point totals.

Hanham

49,225

Bankes

51,081

Gulliver

49,460

Paget

54,023

You can check your child's epraise points total by going to www.epraise.co.uk and logging into the parents page.

Lost Property

Over the last few years, we have amassed a large quantity of unnamed but useable lost property. We have decided to introduce a new way of using this spare uniform, helping the environment and also helping reduce the cost of uniform for those it will help. Here is how the system will work:

All of the lost property from around the school is collected up each week and put in the storage area outside the PE office in the hall. Pupils can check here for any missing items.



Once a week the lost property is sorted by our team of pupils.



If the item is named, it will be sent back to the pupil through the register.

If the item is unnamed, it will be washed and placed in our new uniform store (located near the swimming pool entrance). Ask at the school office and they can direct you to the uniform storage area.

Whilst you may not end up with your unnamed uniform back, you can replace it free of charge. This can also help any families where the cost of uniform for their child is a worry. Help yourself to what you need.

Parents are welcome to visit this store **at any time** to take uniform for their child. They do not have to have lost an item to take an item.



This new system is part of our school's drive to reduce the impact of our lives on the world's environment. This is something we know is very important to our students and staff. The fashion and clothing industry is one of the biggest polluting industries and we hope that this strategy reduces the need for new uniform.

We are really happy to take donations of old uniform, good quality shoes, coats and PE kit to add to our uniform store. Anything you donate will get reused and recycled, helping the environment and reducing costs for families. If have a donation, please drop this off at the school office.



Pupils for Praise

Every Friday, two pupils from each year group are selected to go and see Mr Ayling to receive praise and a reward for their hard work. All the pupils below have been selected since the last newsletter.

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Finley W	Sidney B	George O' D	Toby M
Edward F	Riley P	Celia D	Alice H
Jack N	Jake B	Amelia N	Lily W
Jude T	Lincoln M	Samuel D	Ben G
Charlotte F	Sophia J	Evelyn M	Imogen G
Rosie St Q	Harry C	Daisy C	Izzy W
Claudia E	Sophie D	Alfie B	Isla B
Sophia Y	Esme L	Alissa I	Theo M
Sophia P	James W	Lily M	Chloe B
Callum B	Henry C	Zach H	Lily-Anne H
Leon S	Eloise N	Aniya R	Josh H
Lani M	Matilda P	Maisie S	Monty E
Oliver L	Josh B	Charlie H	Drew M
River H	Isabella A		Rory A
William K			

Congratulations!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 27th April	Strike Action by members of the NEU
Monday 1st May	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Tuesday 2nd May	Strike Action by members of the NEU
Wednesday 3rd May	Year 7/8 'Sister Act' Trip to the Mayflower
Friday 5th May	Coronation Celebration Event inc. celebration picnic
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday for the Coronation of King Charles III (School Closed)
Tuesday 9th May— Friday 12th May	Year 6 SATS Week
Monday 8th May— Friday 12th May	Year 7 Holne Park Residential Trip and Year 7 Activities Week
Wednesday 17th May	Year 8 French Residential Trip Information Evening (6pm)
Tuesday 23rd May	Roche Court Visit
Wednesday 24th May	Music Pods Opening Concert (6pm) - tbc
Friday 26th May	Last day of half term for pupils
Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June	Half Term (School Closed)
Monday 5th June	INSET Day (School Closed)
Wednesday 7th June	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Monday 12th June—Friday 16th June	Year 8 Tall Ships Residential Trip
Thursday 15th June	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 19th June—Friday 23rd June	Year 8 French Trip Residential
Tuesday 27th June	Key Stage 2 Sports Day
Wednesday 28th June	Key Stage 3 Sports Day
Monday 3rd July	Whole School Photo
Wednesday 5th July	Summer Music Concert
Wednesday 12th July	Year 6 Activities (Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th July)
Wednesday 19th July	Leavers Service & Year 8 Celebration Evening
Friday 21st July	Last day of term for all pupils